

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 13, 1863.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WADE, from the Committee on Territories, submitted the following

R E P O R T .

*The Committee on Territories, to whom was referred the resolution of the Senate of the 16th of January, in regard to the suppression of the publication of the message of the governor of the Territory of Utah, have had the same under consideration and beg leave to report :*

On the 16th of January the Senate of the United States adopted the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Territories be instructed to inquire and report whether the publication of the message of the governor of the Territory of Utah to the territorial legislature has been suppressed, and if so, by what causes, and what was the message.

In pursuance of the instruction contained in this resolution, your committee have the honor to report that they have collected all the facts, and taken all the testimony within their reach, the substance of which, together with a copy of the message, is herewith presented.

These sources of information disclose the fact that the customs which have prevailed in all our other Territories in the government of public affairs have had but little toleration in the Territory of Utah; but in their stead there appears to be, overriding all other influences, a sort of Jewish theocracy, graduated to the condition of that Territory.

This theocracy, having a supreme head who governs and guides every affair of importance in the church, and practically in the Territory, is the only real power acknowledged here, and to the extension of whose interests every person in the Territory must directly or indirectly conduce.

Contrary to the usages of the whole country, the affairs of this Territory are managed through church instrumentalities, and no measure is permitted to succeed in the Territory which will, for one moment, conflict with the interests of the church ; in other words, we have here the first exhibition within the limits of the United States of a church ruling the State.

Information of the most reliable character convinces your committee that it is not only not popular to express any views antagonistic to either the laws or practices of the church in this Territory, but that such expression very soon places the maker of it in the embarrassing position of being considered a heretic, with a strong probability of being treated accordingly.

It is one of the commonly received and commonly taught dogmas of the Mormon church that every one who does not belong to that church is a gentile, and all gentiles are enemies, and of course, under church rule, should be treated as such.

Another opinion—the subject of both public and private teaching—is that the government of the United States will not and ought not to stand. They make a difference between the Constitution and the government of the United States; to the Constitution they claim to be very loyal, but to the government they owe no particular allegiance.

Although claiming to have population enough to entitle them to be admitted as a State into the Union, they have but one paper published in the Territory, thus plainly showing an inexplicable desire to know nothing of what is going on in the world, or else a desire to avoid free discussion. It is the first instance in the history of our country in which so large a population has been satisfied with one paper.

This paper is the organ of the church, for, in the opinion of the leaders in that church, it is necessary that the church should have a mouth-piece, even if there should be no free discussion; and to suppose that anything will be published in this church organ reflecting in the most remote degree on any custom or law of the place is nonsense. Because the governor, in his message, has animadverted upon some of the customs of the Mormons, and has recommended that steps be taken to Americanize the same, he has given offence, and has had his message suppressed.

Polygamy of the most unlimited character, sanctioning the cohabitation of a man with the mother and her daughters indiscriminately, is not the only un-American thing among them.

Their system of voting, to which the governor has called attention in his message, is directly subversive of that freedom which ought to be the pride of every citizen of the United States when he casts his vote. Why is it that in this Territory alone a man cannot deposit his ballot without first having his ballot numbered and his name written on it?

This custom is unknown to any other Territory in the United States, and is almost as un-American as polygamy itself.

If the minds who control the movements of the "Latter Day Saints," as the Mormons call themselves, wish to have everything their own way; if they wish to keep down discussion, and to make men vote just as they please; if they wish to make all men Mormons and force them to remain as such, or else leave the Territory they need not alter one custom or law among them to realize these wishes.

The governor, in part of his message, calls the attention of the

legislature to the fact that there is not one statute on their statute books protecting or regulating the marriage relation. There must be so little value attached to that bond of civilization that it is not considered worth a statutory enactment, or else the people in that Territory have so far departed from the usual short-comings of human nature, that they need no protection to that condition of life.

If the men in this Territory wish to keep the women there from having any legal redress at the hands of their so-called husbands, they can do so just as long as they have no statutes directing and protecting the interests growing out of the marriage relation. In other Territories the responsibilities of marriage are well defined; why are they not so in this?

The message, on examination, is found to contain nothing that should give offence to any legislature willing to be governed by the laws of morality.

It is the opinion of your committee that the message is an able exposition of the manners and customs of the people in that Territory, and, as such, brought down the censure of the leaders of the Mormon church, and, were it not for the animadversions therein contained, it would not have been suppressed.

Your committee can see no reason why it should not be distributed among the people there, and they recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That one thousand copies of the message of the governor of Utah to the territorial legislature be printed and sent to the governor for distribution.

